

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01559 181653Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3651
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T USUN 1559

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, XZ, XF
SUBJECT: ISRAELI ROLE IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 103409

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR LEONARD DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE
OF REFTEL WITH ISRAELI PERM REP HERZOG ON MAY 16. HERZOG
SAID AMBASSADOR YOUNG COULD HELP MATTERS BY EXPENDING SOME
OF HIS CAPITAL WITH AFRICANS. HERZOG AVOIDED ANY
INDICATION ISRAELIS NOW COULD CONSIDER CURTAILMENT OF ISRAEL'S
ARMS RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. LEONARD REVIEWED BASIC POINTS OF US SYMPATHY WITH
ISRAEL'S DESIRE TO REVIVE ITS POSITION IN AFRICA, US PAST
ACTIVITIES TO BE HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD, PM VORSTER'S VISIT
TO ISRAEL, AND PRESENT OBSTACLE OF AFRICAN PERCEPTION OF
ISRAEL'S ARMS RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA. LEONARD
POINTED OUT THAT ISRAEL COULD HELP ITSELF BY DECLARING
PUBLICLY ITS ADHERENCE TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL VOLUNTARY
ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

3. HERZOG SIDESTEPPED LAST POINT BY REITERATING THAT
BASIC PROBLEM CONTINUES TO BE A PROCEDURAL ONE OF THE
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PAGE 02 USUN N 01559 181653Z

UNANIMITY RULE WITHIN THE AFRICAN GROUP. HERZOG NOTED
THAT MANY AFRICANS HAVE COMPLAINED TO ISRAEL OFFICIALS
OVER DIFFICULTIES THIS RULE PRESENTS. AFRICAN NATIONS
WON'T TAKE POLITICAL RISK OF BREAKING RANKS WITH THEIR
FELLOW AFRICANS AND MOREOVER WOULD FEAR RETALIATION SHOULD
THEY VENTURE INDEPENDENT ACTION. HERZOG PROPOSED AGAIN THAT
US COULD BE INSTRUMENTAL IN BREAKING THE UNANIMITY RULE

BY OFFERING TO BACK UP THOSE NATIONS WHICH WERE WILLING TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. HERZOG MORE POINTEDLY NOTED THAT THIS WAS AREA WHERE AMBASSADOR YOUNG, WHO HAS GREAT CREDIT WITH AFRICAN NATIONS, COULD HELP EFFECT CHANGE.

4. HERZOG ADDED THAT HE HAD GIVEN ALL THE FACTS ON ISRAELI MILITARY INVOLVEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND THAT ISRAELI INVOLVEMENT WAS INDEED QUITE LIMITED. LEONARD NOTED THAT THIS WAS PRESENT SITUATION, BUT QUERIED WHETHER THIS WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE FUTURE. HERZOG ACKNOWLEDGED IT DID NOT. (NOTE: IMPLICIT IN HERZOG'S DISCUSSION OF ISRAEL'S ARMS RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA IS THE IDEA THAT AFTER THE ELECTIONS, A NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT MIGHT REVIEW THIS ISSUE. USUN WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE THIS WITH HERZOG AFTER A TIME LAPSE OF SEVERAL WEEKS.)
LEONARD

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NNN

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